



Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Brownfields Program

Special Information

IDEM to Submit Final Proposal for Federal Brownfields Assessment Grant

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management is applying for \$400,000 of grant funding available through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the newly authorized Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, also known as the new Brownfields Law.

The Brownfields Law expands potential federal financial assistance for brownfield revitalization, including grants for assessment, cleanup, revolving loan funds and job training. The law also allows funding for activities at petroleum-contaminated sites if they are low risk, are not subject to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) laws, and have no one named as a responsible party for the cleanup.

IDEM is requesting funding for three initiatives as part of a Brownfields Assessment Grant under the new law. First, the Abandoned Landfill Assessment Grant requests \$150,000 for use in quantifying the impacts that abandoned, unregulated landfills have on Indiana's environment. To date, the state has identified 289 of these landfill sites, with the average size being approximately 10 acres. Assessing and understanding conditions of abandoned landfills eases a community's hesitation to redevelop these areas, allowing the development of the landfills into new greenspaces or other beneficial reuses.

Second, the Brownfields/Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Project Track Grant would allow IDEM to offer local units of government a higher level of liability protection for brownfield sites in addition to what is currently available through IDEM's Brownfields Program. Environmental liability protection is often necessary for brownfields redevelopment, as communities begin securing bank loans and seeking outside buyers. Currently, the Brownfields Program offers free assistance to communities but does not offer a Covenant not to Sue, the highest level of liability protection. The VRP offers a Covenant not to Sue to VRP participants who have successfully completed a site cleanup, but the participant must pay for the necessary oversight and confirmatory sampling. This grant funding would provide a bridge between the two programs for brownfield sites where the extra level of liability protection is necessary to achieve redevelopment goals, and the community does not have the financial resources necessary to enter the VRP. This grant would allow the agency, at no cost to the Brownfields Program participant, to perform oversight activities and to confirm that remediated areas have met cleanup standards for issuance of the covenant. The amount requested for this grant is \$100,000.

Lastly, the Abandoned Tank Facility Inventory and Assessment Grant would allow IDEM to identify and assess abandoned petroleum-contaminated sites with tanks. These are sites that are currently vacant, off the local tax rolls, and do not have a viable responsible party. IDEM will increase efforts to identify these sites, especially in rural areas, and then work with communities to redevelop the properties. IDEM is requesting \$150,000 for these activities.

U.S. EPA brownfield grants are awarded on a competitive basis, using a two-step selection process. The first round grant applications were reviewed by the federal agency in January. IDEM and other successful applicants later were invited to participate in a second round, where proposals will be evaluated by federal senior management officials in April. IDEM must meet the second round application deadline of March 19th.

IDEM is seeking public participation in this grant application process. Due to the short time frame, please provide comments, if possible, by March 18th to be included with the final proposal. Comments should be submitted no later than April 30th to be included in a subsequent work plan should IDEM be selected to receive the grant funding. Any comments or questions may be directed to Sandy Bardes of IDEM between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. via telephone at (800) 451-6027 ext. 3-2570 or via e-mail at sbardes@dem.state.in.us. In addition, on **March 17th**, agency availability sessions will be held to receive public input on the grant proposal. The first session will be through a **conference call**, allowing interested parties to contact the agency by telephone from **9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** The phone number for that conference call is (800) 791-2345 or (317) 713-0120. The second will be an **open house** session that will allow interested parties to visit Brownfields Program staff personally in Indianapolis at the Indiana Government Center South in Conference Room C from **3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.** To view the grant proposals and obtain instructions for the conference call, please visit www.in.gov/idem/land/brownfields/.



Brownfields Listserv

The *Brownfields Bulletin* listserv is now available. You may join the listserv to receive quarterly copies of the *Brownfields Bulletin* and other timely brownfield news items electronically by visiting www.in.gov/idem/land/brownfields/bulletin/unsub.html.



Grants Available for Brownfields-Related Training, Research, and Technical Assistance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released proposal guidelines to assist eligible entities apply for brownfields-related training, research, and technical assistance grants and cooperative agreements.

The need for training, research, and technical assistance of increasing depth and breadth has expanded as the brownfields program has grown. Projects addressing various topics and reaching various stakeholders will allow for sound decision-making and will help cleanup and revitalize brownfields properties. As brownfields issues affect many different stakeholders, EPA anticipates a variety of organizations, representing a variety of non-federal constituents will have an interest in brownfields-related issues and will want to conduct relevant training, research and technical assistance for the benefit of its constituents.

The deadline for applications is April 14, 2003. For more information on the proposal guidelines, including definitions of training, research, and technical assistance, specific eligibility and funding requirements, and descriptions of the subject areas for which EPA is interested in supporting projects for the benefit of brownfields stakeholders, visit <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm#trta>.

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